

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Raymond Chavarria
Simon George
Drew Satariano

Absent: Bea Antenore – excused
William Marmion - excused

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts and Revenue Development
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Superintendent, Community Recreation Programs
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Teddi Lattimore, Student, California State University, Dominguez Hills
Dave San Jose, Bikes 90800
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks
Rick Holcomb, Camden
George Medak
Kurt Buxton, HRP Landesign

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Vice President Saltzgaver to approve the February 17, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – CHRISSY MARSHALL

President Kozaites stated that the Sammy Award would be postponed until the April 21 meeting.

IV. EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATION FOR MARCH

President Kozaites stated that Vice President Saltzgaver would announce the Employee of the Month.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Joe Ambrose as the March Supervisory Employee of the Month, from the Maintenance Operations Bureau.

Mr. Shippey stated that Joe Ambrose is a long-time City employee and his job has undergone one of the biggest changes over the years. He said that Mr. Ambrose was a park maintenance supervisor and due to the budget cuts, he was moved to the Beach Maintenance Division, where he supervises the parking lot cleanup and trash pick-up of the beach areas. Mr. Shippey stated that Mr. Ambrose was able to make this huge adjustment with no problem and that he is an exemplary employee.

Mr. Hester said that he wanted to recognize some people who were nominated and would be receiving some awards. He distributed a press release recognizing Department employee Robbie Stewart, who would be inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Champions for her background and contributions in basketball, volleyball, and softball. He said that she is currently very active in the National Volleyball Association national tournaments and really represents the City and the Department well.

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner stated that Ms. Stewart grew up at Whaley Park and was part of the Department's youth program when she was young. She said that Ms. Stewart is the Department's biggest champion of the youth sports program.

Mr. Hester stated that he also asked that Mr. David San Jose attend the Commission meeting today. He said that Mr. San Jose is the founder of the Bikes 90800 program centered out of Houghton Park. He said that the Department nominated David for a California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) award called "Champion of the Community," and he was selected by the state organization, which was announced at the state conference in Sacramento. Mr. Hester stated that Mr. San Jose does a lot of fundraising and works very closely with the kids in North Long Beach and has been a real supporter of parks and recreation programs that have a positive impact on the community. Mr. Hester presented the CPRS award to Mr. San Jose.

Ms. San Jose thanked the Department for the opportunity to be involved in the youth and the parks.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he lives two blocks from the park and Mr. San Jose epitomizes making a difference one kid at a time and he has touched a lot of lives with his program. He appreciates what Mr. San Jose does.

Commissioner Chavarria said that it is an honor to see this award given to Mr. San Jose and thanked him for supporting the kids.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department was recently notified that the renovation at the Skylinks at Long Beach Golf course was selected as the top renovation project of a municipal course in the United States and it received an award from Golf Magazine at their conference in San Diego. He said that this award is quite an honor.

Mr. Hester said he was notified that one of the Department's employees just completed 25 years of service. He presented Robin Black with an award from the City for completing 25 years of service to the City of Long Beach.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#05-0301

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to authorize the Community Recreation Programs Bureau manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#05-0302

REQUEST FOR PERMIT APPROVAL AND FEE WAIVER FOR CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ON APRIL 16, 2005, IN AREA III OF EL DORADO EAST REGIONAL PARK

Mr. Hester stated that this is the annual Cambodian New Year event held at El Dorado East Regional Park; each year they request a waiver of permit fees, worth about \$4,200. He said that the individuals still pay vehicle entry fees into the park and the group pays for staff costs, such as park rangers, intervention and prevention outreach workers, police services, etc. He said that David Ashman has been working closely with the group.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the issuance of a permit to the Cambodian Coordinating Committee for a New Year Celebration in El Dorado East Regional Park on April 16, 2005, and authorize the waiver of all related permit fees. The motion carried unanimously.

#05-0303

REQUEST FOR A FIRST AMENDMENT TO PERMIT NO. 27603 TO CHANGE THE PERMITTEE NAME FROM CESAR CHAVEZ SOCCER LEAGUE TO CESAR CHAVEZ YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND TO SELL NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING LEAGUE GAMES AND EVENTS

Mr. Hester stated that basically the organization has changed their name and this is to reflect that change on their permit.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve an amendment to Permit No. 27603 to change the name of the organization from Cesar Chavez Soccer League to Cesar Chavez Youth Soccer Association, approve the sale of non-perishable food and non-alcoholic beverages at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Drake Park, Admiral Kidd Park, and Veterans Park during league games and events and, waive the fifteen percent (15%) concession fee associated with those sales. The motion carried with Commissioner Chavarria abstaining.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met and discussed a few items, particularly the upcoming budget, and the Committee would be meeting again soon to discuss the budget.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the financial statement was included in the packet. He said that 42% of the fiscal year has expired and the numbers look fairly aligned. They have also had a Fee Waiver Committee meeting and they would want to meet again a few times before they bring the final amended policy to the Commission.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Marmion is not at the meeting, but the report was included in the packet.

Commissioner Chavarria congratulated Chief Neal and his staff on the work they do.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that they did not have a meeting this month.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that there was no meeting this month. He said that he attended the Rotary Centennial Park Rotary Club ceremony but that the park is not yet open to the public. He said that the Rotary Club raised another \$6,000 to put sod in the park instead of seeding it, so the park can open sooner.

Commissioner Chavarria said that he stopped by and the park will be awesome. He thanked Anna Mendiola and Dennis Eschen for their work on the park. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Rotary Club thanking them for their donations.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department is working with the Council office to do a community opening in about a month and the neighborhood would be invited.

Mr. Hester stated that Daryle W. Black Memorial Park has been completed and staff has been working with the Council office to schedule an opening to the public. An official dedication would be done after the statue is installed in a few months.

Mr. Hester stated that the issues with the contractor have been resolved at Burton W. Chace Park and a tentative date has been set for May 7, for an official opening.

Commissioner Chavarria stated that a dedication of the Admiral Kidd Park was held for the soccer field and the parking lot. He said that the community loves the park.

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Chavarria brought up a good idea and maybe the Commission should send a letter to the Rotary Club thanking them for their donations.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Antenore, Chair

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Antenore is not at the meeting and no meeting was held this month.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2005

Commissioner Satariano stated that in the Equal Employment Opportunity and Customer Satisfaction Committee they have been discussing community outreach that occurs in the neighborhoods that does not come up on the customer comment cards. He said that at the bottom of Page 12, is mentioned that during February staff attended a total of 23 community meetings. He said that he wanted to call that to the Commission's attention.

Commissioner Chavarria congratulated Maintenance Operations Bureau staff for their work in cleaning the beaches during the storms at this time of year.

Vice President Saltzgaver thanked staff for the tour, which he thought was very critical to him.

Commissioner Chavarria thanked Phil Hester for being the tour guide.

President Kozaites thanked Mr. Hester for the tour and stated that the tour should be an annual event.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. LETTERS FROM TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

President Kozaites stated that a letter was received from a teacher at Tucker Elementary School. He said that he talked to Miss Veith and offered to speak to the class about their questions.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VICTORY PARK AT 150 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD

Mr. Eschen distributed a site plan to the Commissioners. He said that this is the third phase of the Camden Development, which was once known as the Pike Properties Development, who were prior owners. He said that the site is located between the Ocean Center building and the

Verizon building. The design guidelines for Victory Park are very strict and exact in terms of what needs to go into the park and this complies with every one of the design guidelines. He said that the site is actually dedicating a larger area than is required by the Local Coastal Plan. He said that George Medak and Rick Holcomb are present to make a few comments.

Mr. Rick Holcomb said he was with Camden and this has been a long project for them and he appreciates the Commission's support. He said that he also brought Kurt Buxton, who is their landscape consultant responsible for the design.

Mr. Hester requested that Mr. Holcomb show the boundary lines on the project.

Mr. Holcomb showed the boundary with the additional area added to Victory Park.

Vice President Saltzgaver asked how tall the building would be. Mr. Holcomb responded that it is not approved yet, but it is proposed to be 17 or 18 stories.

President Kozaites asked when would the park be developed in the project. Mr. Holcomb responded that it would be developed in conjunction with the project itself. He said that they are slated for a May 5 Planning Commission approval and that construction would take approximately two years, so the park might be developed in about three years.

President Kozaites requested that Victory Park be included on next year's tour.

Mr. Hester stated that he would like to go through and maybe add more park signage to Victory Park.

Mr. Bob Lamond stated that as one of the survivors of the LCP Committee, he thought that the plan looked pretty good.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the design of Victory Park adjacent to 150 W. Ocean Boulevard. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Ms. Diane Lewis mentioned that the Rancho Los Cerritos would be celebrating their 50th anniversary on April 3, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., and the rededication ceremony would be at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Eschen stated that he is putting together a joint meeting with the Capital Improvements Committee and the Commission on Disabilities.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the Chavez Luncheon would be held on March 28. He said that there are a lot of Easter activities planned in the parks. He mentioned that he would like the Parks and Recreation Commissioners listed on the back of the "*Senior Post*."

Commissioner Chavarria said that he was wondering what the status was of the Rancho Los Alamitos.

Mr. Hester stated that the Rancho submitted a grant application for their barns project, but did not receive it. He said they are trying to decide whether they should resubmit an application for the grant in the future. He said that they could be asked to do a presentation to the Commission in the future.

Commissioner Chavarria congratulated the Rancho Los Cerritos on receiving the Long Beach Heritage Preservation Award.

Commissioner Satariano said that the Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame Committee held their first meeting last night to bring in the second class and they determined that they would have a maximum of five persons on the baseball side and on the softball side, a maximum of three women and three men. He said that they have determined that May 14 would be the likely day for the ceremony, which is the last game of the CSULB Dirtbags. He said they would be inviting all the past inductees too. Commissioner Satariano said they are encouraging the public to submit names, so no one will be left out.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that there has been a call for nominations to commissions and he believes the deadline is next month. He said that the Parks and Recreation Commission will have one vacancy and if anyone has any good recommendations to remind them to submit an application.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2005, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine